



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Sudan welcomes US Special Envoy Senate remarks

The Government of Sudan has expressed its approval of the testimony provided by U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan General Scott Gration at a hearing before the U.S. Senate on July 30 with regards to Sudan. The article Sudanese official News Agency (SUNA) article alleges that General Gration stated that the U.S. sanctions imposed on Sudan were “harming Sudan” and that the U.S. had no substantial evidence for designating Sudan as one of the state sponsors of terrorism. Responding to the U.S. Special Envoy’s remarks, Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim, Sudanese Permanent Envoy to the United Nations, pointed out that “Sudan itself is a victim of terrorism,” and is “being hurt by unjustifiable U.S. sanctions.” Abdul-Halim argues that the sanctions violate International Law as well as the United Nations (UN) Charter. The UN official “hopes that the statements given by the American Envoy will convince the U.S. administration to adopt clear and decisive steps to lift Sudan’s name from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism” and will put an end to the U.S.-imposed “unilateral sanctions” on Sudan. Abdul-Halim’s concluding message expressed a wish for a better relationship with Sudan “based on respect of Sudan's choices” and finding “mutual interests of the two nations.” (*Sudan News Agency*)

Abyei referendum “a right for all southerners”

Riak Gai, Head of the National Congress Party’s (NCP) wing in the South, contends that the referendum for Abyei’s self-determination in 2011 “is a right for all Southerners,” adding “that it is not up to the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) to decide on the future of Abyei. A press report, published on July 31 in *The Citizen*, quotes the Former Upper Nile Governor Bishop Dack Dob in saying that “the referendum would be confined to the Dinka Ngok and the Misseriya born in Abyei.” The former governor

opines that the Abyei dispute is between the NCP and the panel of experts rather than between the NCP and the SPLM. (*Al-Khartoum, The Citizen, Al-Ayam*)

Abyei legislative body requests budget endorsement

A delegation from the Abyei Legislative Council is conferring with Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir in order to request endorsement and release of the pending 2009 budget allocated for the Abyei Administration along with compensation payments for those affected by violence in the region last May. Chairman of the Abyei Legislative Council said that “officials working for the Abyei Administration have not received their salaries for the past nine months.” (*Al-Ayam*)

JEM conducting “dubious” activities in Darfur

Unnamed sources from South Kordofan stated that the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is embarking on “intensive and dubious” activities in the areas around North Darfur and Jebel Marra. Sudanese government security organs have stepped up precautions around the area to counteract any possible attack. (*Al-Watan*)

Humanitarian situation in Darfur “stable”

Sudanese Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al Jailani affirmed that the humanitarian situation in Darfur was “stable.” Al Jailani noted that 28 thousand tons of food reserves had been allotted for filling the food gap in Darfur. Al Jailani said the government was “currently concentrating its efforts on development and provision of basic services in the villages to encourage citizens to voluntarily return to their areas.” (*The Advocate*)

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. This summary does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.